

# Connected

Sunday 11th December 2022

3rd Sunday Of Advent

## Sermon Snippets

Christ Church  
Mark 1: 1-8



Emmanuel  
Isaiah 9: 2-7



John the Baptist on centre-stage as the forerunner of the Lord Jesus. What was he so concerned to preach about so vividly and sometimes so rudely to anyone who would listen?

Why do we always bring him in at Advent? Would you have liked to meet this hairy prophet from the wilderness? What does he mean telling me to 'repent' anyway?

It all has to do with the LORD Jesus.



The most High God chooses one teenage girl in a mountain village far from the centre of influence and religious power. God chose a country girl. She had the qualities and character that He desired and she was the chosen, favoured one. We are all chosen people - to fulfil God's mission in our various lives. What an incredible privilege we each have, chosen by God and given the exact correct gifts by God to fulfil His purposes in our lives.

As we think about this festive season, may we look past the modern glitz and see two very ordinary people - Mary and Joseph - chosen to fulfil the utterly extraordinary task of bringing up Jesus, God's Son. Put yourself in their shoes as the angel brings these life changing messages to them.

Looking back over the years, God chose wisely. And when we take stock we will realise that God chose us and we need to prayerfully discover His purposes for us so that, in the fulness of time, we can realise with enormous gratitude that God chose wisely with us.



## Christingle Service

This Sunday we'll be having our Christingle Service (4pm at Christ Church). Although it's aimed at young families, many have also found that it's helpful to them and all are very welcome.

This year Nicky's team have prepared a "pack" for all who come to assemble the Christingle during the service. They are wonderful things and, usually, the best bit is when all the candles are lit and we turn off all the lights and - because by that time it's dark outside - we watch the light shine in the darkness. It's a very striking illustration of Christ's light shining into each of our hearts and then out from us to the world where we live. A reminder that God cares about His world and asks us to be His people as we live out our lives for Him and not for ourselves alone.

So, if you're feeling adventurous and willing to have a go at making a Christingle, why not give the service a try? You'd be very welcome!



# What's On This Week

## Sunday 11th December

Deaf Church at 3pm at Emmanuel  
Christingle Service at 4pm at Christ Church

## Monday 12th December

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre  
(last session before Christmas)  
Carol Singing in Church Square at 2:30pm - Emmanuel

## Tuesday 13th December

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel  
(last session before Christmas)  
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

## Wednesday 14th December

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week  
Holy Communion at 10:30am at Emmanuel  
Town Centre Carol Service at 12:30pm at Emmanuel

## Thursday 15th December

No Craft & Chat this week  
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel  
(last session before Christmas)

## Friday 16th December

Candlelit Carol Service at 7pm at Emmanuel

## Sunday 18th December

Candlelit Carol Service at 6pm at Christ Church

## Christmas Notices!

### *Volunteers for Christmas Services*

If you are able to help with various jobs during/after our Christmas Services, please sign-up on the sheet at the back of church. Thank you.

### *Christmas Invites*

There are now some Christmas invites available to pass on to your friends, family, & neighbours. If you would like to take a batch to deliver to a specific road please ensure you let Emma in the Church Office know in order that there are not duplications!

### *Christmas Cards*

Please check the pigeon holes for Christmas cards!

### *Church Office Closed*

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Tuesday 13th December.

Please also note that the Church Office will be officially closed from Wednesday 21st December til Wednesday 4th January inclusive (although it will be intermittently manned during this period).

# Prayer Pointers

## Monday

Give praise to God for all the joys of the Christmas period and for all the opportunities it gives to worship Him in church through carols and special services.

Thank the Lord that He so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to save us from our sins.

## Tuesday

Pray for those suffering financial hardship in this difficult period for the economy - for whom Christmas will not be all it has been in the past. Pray that they will know the true meaning of Christ's birth and not be troubled by expenditure on the frivolities.

## Wednesday

Give thanks for the work of charities such as St Mungo, Shelter, and Crisis at Christmas who cater for the homeless at this time of year. Pray that they will be able to get the funding they need to give provision for all in need over the festive period.

## Thursday

Pray for all who work in the health service which is under much strain at this time of year. Ask the Lord to grant strength and wisdom to the doctors, nurses, paramedics, and ambulance staff to see them through this stressful period.

## Friday

This has not been an easy year for the governance of our country. Pray for greater stability in government in the coming year and that all our politicians will be able to work constructively for the common good.

## Saturday

As families come together over the Christmas week, let us give thanks for our homes and for the love of our families. We pray that when two or three are gathered together this Christmas Tide, He will be among us.

# Coffee after the Service...

## Carol Singing In Care Homes



This Sunday, 11th December, is the last chance to sign-up for Care Home Carol Singing - please add your name to the sheet at the back of church if you would like to take part on either one or both of these afternoons...



Wednesday 14th from 2pm  
(please meet at Christ Church at 1:45pm)

Thursday 15th from 2:15pm  
(please meet at Christ Church at 2pm)

### TURNING STAMPS INTO BIBLES

Please save used Christmas Stamps, (NOT the standard everyday ones) and place them in the Stamp Box on the table inside the Church door. It would be helpful if a 5mm border be cut round each one.

British Special Issue stamps and foreign ones are also collected throughout the year.

The sale money raised enables The Bible Society to provide affordable Bibles around the world for people hungry to read the Word of God for themselves.



Caring, Listening, Helping

### Message from Street Pastors...

Due to admin problems, we have had to set up a new Facebook page for Street Pastors Weston-super-Mare as our old one is now locked and unable to be used.

Frustratingly, we had over 600 followers and now have to start again from scratch! PLEASE like our new page (below) and share to everyone so that we can get our followers back and make people aware of the good work that we do in our town. We are also in the process of setting up an Instagram page so watch this space!

We are also desperate for volunteers and so, if you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a Street Pastor, then please ask them to contact us. We have gone from 50 volunteers to 17 which means that we are no longer out every Saturday. We can only manage two Saturdays a month. It would be sad if Street Pastors were to stop as our town has greater needs than it ever has. In the meantime, please pray that God sends more Street Pastors our way.

Thank you so much for your support.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088213270945>



### Christ Church Directory

Don't forget that the new Christ Church Directory is now available - please take a copy from the back of church.

Bible Reading Notes are now available at the back of church for those who have paid for them.

If you have ordered Inspiring Women or Every Day With Jesus, please see Sandra Wilkes after the service.

The funeral for Jill Kavan will be taking place at 12:15pm on Thursday 22nd December at Christ Church for anyone who would like to attend.

### Verse For The Week

" For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. "

Isaiah 9: 6

### Contact Details

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